

TRAIL ANNUAL REPORT 2016-17



Identify

Undeveloped projects identified in the City's Greenprint or trail database
15.90 miles

Study

Projects that have been or are currently being studied to determine a feasible alignment.
16.37 miles

Plan

Projects that have been or are currently being master planned for future development.
40.20 miles

Design

Projects that have been or are currently being designed (construction documents).
9.66 miles

Build

Projects that have been or are currently being constructed.
1.56 miles

Open

Projects that are open to the public.
58.75 miles, either paved or interim:
49.88 miles (paved)
8.87 miles (interim)

Program Overview

San José's Trail Program advances the highest-quality projects to be a national leader in the integration of urban trails. Within this context, the program is developing a 100-mile interconnected trail network comprised of 40 individual trail systems which are defined by the Greenprint and General Plan. The **existing 58.75 mile network** is already recognized as one of the nation's largest.

Scale of the Trail Network grew by 1.2 miles over the past 12 months (2.0 miles were paved upon an existing gravel trails, and 1.2 miles were newly-developed trails).

This report tracks this and other progress over the past fiscal year.

Funding for trail projects was substantially greater; \$32,900,000 versus \$19,000,000 in fiscal year 2015/16. planned and developed trail systems. This funding supported 28 development projects.

Program Updates

Awards and Recognition

The City of San José and Callander Associates received the Trail Planning & Design Award for the SKY Lane Trail Vision Study. If developed, the SKY Lane Trail would link the Three Creeks Trail West to Coyote Creek and Kelley

Park. The Vision Study was developed to help stakeholders understand the trail corridor's major challenges and how an elevated trail concept would provide a means to cross active rail lines, a major freeway, and planned high-speed rail. See final page of this report for additional images from the study.



Trail Count 2016

The September 2016 count documented trail usage at nine count stations along the Guadalupe River (3 stations), Los Gatos Creek (2 stations), Los Alamitos Creek, Coyote Creek, Three Creeks, and future Five Wounds Trail alignment.

Trail usage increased substantially from the prior year. Travel at the Guadalupe River Trail and Coleman Avenue saw a 29.9% increase. Travel also increased at Los Gatos Creek and Hamilton Avenue by 21%. The trend line shows a long-term increase in usage over 10 years of data collection.

The data gathered from Trail Count supports trail planning and competitive grant writing. It also reminds the community and leaders that trails are an integral part of our balanced transportation system. Volunteers from the Guadalupe River Park Conservancy, Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition, Save Our Trails, Five Wounds/ Brookwood Terrace Neighborhood, Keep Coyote Creek Beautiful and others joined with City of San José staff to conduct the tenth annual count and survey of trail users.

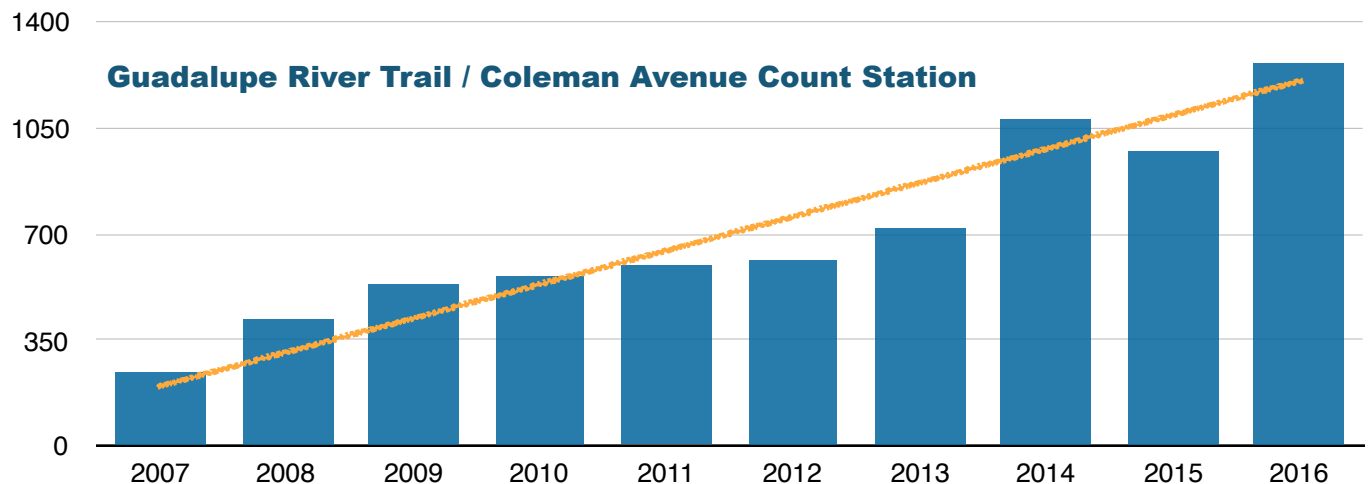
See the “Trail Count” page of the website for more information about Trail Count.

Competitive Grant Writing

Staff pursued substantial new funding for trail development over the past 12 months. Grant writing was prioritized for projects in need of construction funding.



| Project | Amount | Status |
|--|-------------|----------|
| Coyote Creek Trail - Story to Tully | \$5,200,000 | Awarded |
| Coyote Creek - Singleton Road Crossing | \$1,046,500 | Declined |
| Coyote Creek - Singleton Road Crossing | \$200,000 | Awarded |
| Los Gatos Creek - Under-Crossing | \$300,000 | Awarded |



Social Media

The Twitter@sanjosetrails was initiated in January 2010, with a simple mission: offer regular *Trail project updates, program milestones, upcoming closures and relevant news stories*. The platform continues to draw an audience. In the past 12 months, the audience grew by 32%, from 2,000 to **2,675 followers**.

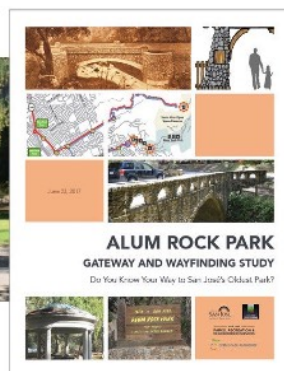
Instagram@SanJoseTrails has a stronger visual focus, with filtered images of construction work and downtown San José. The account has **270 followers** and informs on trails and promotion of local tourism.

Periscope@SanJoseTrails posts live-stream videos at project sites for greater detail on the work underway, with **44 followers**. The highest viewed content was captured on August 17, 2017 with broadcast of the Lower Silver Creek Trestle Fire (as viewed from City Hall); 257 views of that broadcast have occurred.



Active Projects

Alum Rock Park Gateway Study: Alum Rock Park is California's oldest civic park, funded in 1872. The study was completed to define improved wayfinding, gateways, and allocation of parking resources in anticipation of the 2022 celebration of the park's 150th anniversary. The study will be used to define funding proposals for park enhancements.



North San José Levee Ramp Study: The Guadalupe River Trail and Coyote Creek Trail are developed or planned upon

elevated levees through north San José. Other than the River Oaks Parkway ramp, access to these popular trails is via intersecting roadways. This study confirms preferred ramp locations and secured buy-in from stakeholder agencies for a cost-efficient design approach.

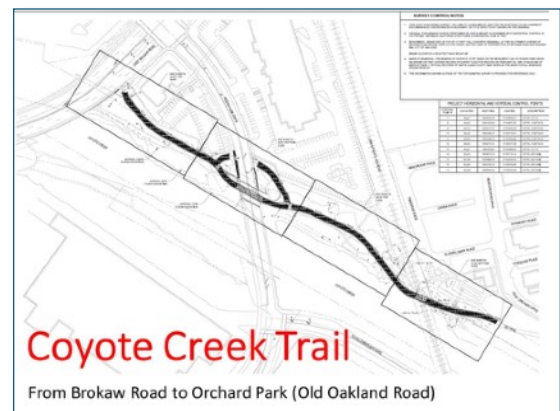
Bay Area Ridge Trail Visibility Signage:

Coordination with the City's Department of Transportation, County of Santa Clara (Parks) and Bay Area Ridge Trail occurred during the year to define the scope and develop a conceptual plan for on-street signage guidance between Quicksilver County Park and the Los Alamitos / Calero Creek trail systems.



Blossom Crest Trail - Mary Jo Avenue to Copeland Lane: A feasibility study is nearly completed to define a viable alignment across a pipeline managed by the Santa Clara Valley Water District and beneath PG&E utility lines. The short trail will provide improved pedestrian access between a nearby high school & elementary school.

Coyote Creek Trail (Brokaw Road to Orchard Park): Design work reached the 65% stage of development for future trail improvements that includes under-crossings beneath Ridder Park Drive and Union Pacific Railroad. The project will link to the recently completed Orchard Park. Funding is in place for future construction.



Coyote Creek Trail (Highway 237 Bikeway to Tasman Drive): Construction of 1.1 mile of paved trail improvements was substantially completed in the Spring and public access permitted. Final work including striping, directional striping, interpretive sign and monument sign were installed and project completed in June.



Coyote Creek Trail (Mabury Road to Empire Street): Funding for the Preliminary Engineering of the project was cleared through the processes required by Caltrans and the California Transportation Commission. Negotiation of a design consultant agreement is now underway. Construction of the project is expected to occur in 2019.

Coyote Creek Trail (Highway 280 to Story Road): Final design work has been completed and staff continues to work with Caltrans to secure the required permission to proceed with construction. There is no regulatory “season” for construction, so work is expected to proceed quickly upon Caltrans’ authorization. Caltrans governs the use grant funds due to the federal funding source.

Coyote Creek Trail (Singleton Road Barrier Removal & Bridge): A \$200,000 funding agreement with the Santa Clara County Open Space Authority is being executed to supplement funds for design work. An Initial Study is being prepared per the California Environmental Quality Act.

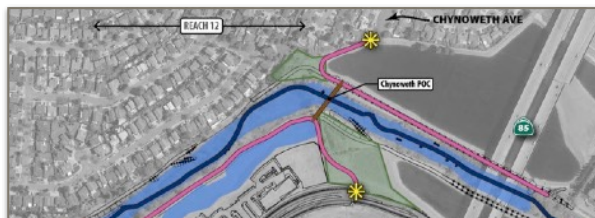
Coyote Creek Trail (Odette Morrow Trail): Construction of the 1-mile paved fitness trail was completed in April. The loop trail is linked to Coyote Creek Trail and a collection of fitness stations. The project was named in memory of a local community leader.

Five Wounds Trail (William Avenue to Whitton Avenue, Acquisition): Negotiations are on-going with the property owner. Funding arrangements are being made with two other public agencies to support multi-agency ownership of the former rail corridor, and its future use as an urban trail.

Guadalupe River Trail (Virginia Street to Chynoweth Avenue, Master Plan): A detailed master plan for the 4.9-mile trail system was completed and approved by the City Council on June 13. The \$47M project will support an entirely off-street trail system from downtown to south San José. The high cost is substantially due to pedestrian bridges and under-crossings.



Guadalupe River – Chynoweth Avenue Pedestrian Bridge Study: A preferred alignment was defined for a future pedestrian bridge that will link the Erikson Neighborhood to the new Almaden Ranch retail development. The study is incorporated as part of the Guadalupe River Trail Master Plan.



Guadalupe River Trail (Coleman Road Under-Crossing): A construction contract has been awarded for the 600' under-crossing and related ramp improvements. Construction is now underway. The project will support a full loop around Lake Almaden, and better connectivity to the Guadalupe Creek and Guadalupe River Trails, with the nearby Almaden Light Rail Station. Completion of the project is anticipated by February 2018.

Los Gatos Creek Trail (Reach 5B/C Under-Crossing): Coordination with Caltrain is on-going to develop an under-crossing in context of an upcoming railway bridge replacement project. Caltrain is now constructing its bridge improvements and both agencies are communicating regularly to address multiple needs in the immediate area; including a trash capture system, storm water system, retaining wall structures, and relocation of mitigation to not limit or prevent future trail construction.



Lower Silver Creek (Alum Rock Avenue to Dobern Avenue): Design work has been prepared to the 65% stage for a paved trail system, including a landscaped plaza at the Dobern Avenue entrance which extends to the existing Kammerer Avenue Pedestrian Bridge.

Penitencia Creek Trail (Noble Avenue to Dorel Drive): The paved trail project opened in April with three boardwalk sections to span over sensitive tree roots. The project carries the Bay Area Ridge Trail designation.



New or Enhanced Trails



Most miles under construction since 2011/12 when 6.4 miles were built as part of Lower Guadalupe River Trail.

Penitencia Creek Trail (King Road to Berryessa BART): Construction of the paved trail has been completed and links King Road to the new BART transit station (under construction). Project includes two traffic signals to permit controlled crossings at King Road and the new Berryessa Station Way. Opening of the trail to occur as the BART station becomes operational.



San Tomas Aquino Trail (Study, City of Campbell): San Jose transferred \$100,000 to Campbell to support the study of a future trail alignment that will pass through San Jose and Campbell. The study is underway with several community meetings and a Campbell City Council update meeting having been conducted..

Thompson Creek Trail (Tully Road to Quimby Road): Construction is on-going with a 500' retaining wall installed and trail paving to occur in June. Completion is expected in August 2017. The paved trail will include a connection to a new traffic signal from Eastridge Station Way to support greater multi-modal access.



Thompson Creek Trail (Quimby Road to Aborn Court): Design work is underway, with 65% design plans completed and funding supports 95% plan development. Completed plans are intended to support competitive grant writing for future construction.



Three Creeks Trail (Lonus Avenue to Minnesota Avenue): Construction commenced in May 2017 for improvements from Coe Avenue to Minnesota Avenue. The project will take approximately one year to complete. Improvements include a paved trail, landscaping, gateway features and architectural/interpretive elements to recall the corridor's past in support of the area's canneries.

Three Creeks Trail - Los Gatos Creek Trestle: A environmental impact report was prepared as required by the County of Santa Clara Court. The report is now under review by the court. The California Landmarks Commission designated the trestle as an historic structure.



Yerba Buena Creek Pedestrian Bridge Study: Negotiation of consultant contract has been completed in order to support preparation of study in 2017/18. The study will determine a preferred bridge crossing to support better community access to the trail and nearby Evergreen Community College.

Partners

Development of trails can only occur through partnerships with agencies, community groups and hardworking individuals.

Many of the projects in this report would not be possible without the support of:

- City of San José City Council
- Santa Clara Valley Water District - Board of Directors and Staff
- Staff from City of San José departments and offices
- Santa Clara County Open Space Authority
- County of Santa Clara
- Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority
- State of California
- Association of Bay Area Governments
- San Francisco Bay Area Ridge Trail
- Adopt-A-Trail Volunteers
- Guadalupe River Park Conservancy
- Many residents, neighborhood

Scale

2004: **26 miles**

2017: **60 miles** Class I Trails





Award-winning Planning Work

The SKY Lane Vision Study contemplates an aerial trail to extend the Three Creeks Trail eastward. This dramatic vision is required to address the site's multiple and complex challenges. The study helps illustrate the effort required for future trail development. The SKY Lane was awarded the Trail Planning / Design award at the 2017 International Trails Symposium.

